timber for agricultural implements from the Poigamala reserve. That being the case, there is no necessity to throw open reserves as suggested by you.

You also refer to the question of "regular and irregular conversions". I have not studied that evangelical problem as yet, but I shall give my attention to it as soon as possible.

65. Grievances of the ryots of Nanjanad and suggestions for remedying them.

MR. ERAVI PILLAI CHINNATHAMBIA PILLAI (*Member, Tovala taluk*) said that before the year 990 M. E. all tax on paddy lands was paid in kind. In that year one half of the tax was ordered to be paid in money. For purposes of commutation, one Nanjanad *Kotta* was taken as equivalent to 9 *Paras* and $3\frac{5}{8}$ *edangalies*, the cubic contents of a *para* being 640 cubic inches. At the Settlement of 1061, the cubic contents of a *para* were raised to 800 cubic inches so that mathematically 71/2 *paras* would make up 1 *kotta*. Government, however, retained the old equation of 1 *kotta*=9 *paras*, $3\frac{5}{8}$ *edangalies*. This meant a loss of about Rs. 2-11-15 per annum per *kotta* to the tax-payer. In 1082 the whole tax on paddy lands was made payable in money and then the *kotta* was taken as equivalent to 8 paras and $6\frac{1}{2}$ edangalies. This involved a further loss of Rs. 3-4-0 to the tax-payer. This injustice was brought to the notice of Government several times. A committee should be appointed to investigate the matter and to suggest measures for rectifying the mistakes which had been committed.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Eravi Pillai Chinnathambia Pillai, I have listened and tried to follow all that you have said in respect of *Kottas*, *Marakals*, *padies*, *edangalis* and commutation rates. I find that the number of cubic inches to a *para* is exactly the same as the number of acres to a square mile, namely 640, and I find that the whole of your trouble and the cause of your complaint arises from the fact that long years ago one *para* was regarded as 640 cubic inches whereas today it is accepted as equivalent to 800 cubic inches and you pointed out that 160 cubic inches which constitutes the difference is purloined by the Government as excess taxation. I know there are many inequalities in taxation, particularly in South Travancore. These inequalities largely rose out of the change of taxation in kind to taxation in money. As I say, these inequalities have sooner or later to be corrected and I shall have the records on the matter placed before the authorities when the next re-settlement of Travancore is taken up, which I do not think is very far off. I shall send your statement to the Account Officer and have your calculations verified.

The member continued his representation and said that the existing tanks in Nanjanad should be improved and new tanks should be opened with a view to supplementing the supply of water from the Pechipara reservoir. It was a well known fact that the Pechipara reservoir was not able to supply water for the whole of Nanjanad. A great deal might be done to supplement the supply

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from the reservoir by deepening the existing tanks and by opening new ones.

The members of the Central Irrigation Board and the Block Boards should be permitted the use of the Sirkar telephone system for the purpose of communicating with the irrigation officers regarding the supply of water etc., on emergent occasions. At present the ryots had to find out the officers and make personal representations, which of course meant a good deal of waste of time. It might also happen sometimes that the officers were absent from headquarters in which case the difficulty of finding them out would be not inconsiderable.

The Division Officer or the Sub-Division Officer should be made solely responsible for the distribution of water. Sharing of this responsibility with the Section Officer did not work to the benefit of the ryots.

The Budget allotments for the maintenance of irrigation channels should be enhanced and it should also be insisted that these allotments should not be diverted for the construction of new channels.

The channel bank road from Vellamadam bridge to Thazhakudi along N. P. channel bank and the road from the 44th mile of the Main Southern Road to the Thittuvila Aramboly Road *via* Veeranarayanamangalam and Thazhakudi should be widened so as to facilitate the passage of motor vehicles along the road.

The water that flowed into the Veerakeralappaneri *puravu* through the under-tunnel in N. P. channel near Madakulam *puravu* in the Thazhakudi pakuthi should be diverted into the Pazhayar by opening a *kal* to avoid the logging of water in the Veerkeralappaneri *puravu*.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Chinnathambia Pillai, you have the unique privilege of receiving two replies from me to one representation. What I took to be the termination of your representation proved after all to be a pause in your peroration.

I am glad to find that you realise equally with the Government and the Public Works Department that the Kodayar Project does not in itself suffice for the needs of cultivation of the whole of Nanjanad. We have also to depend upon streams and rainfall and tanks. The Chief Engineer is now studying very carefully the question of improving the irrigation facilities of Nanjanad.

There are several matters which you have touched upon and which I shall commend to the earnest consideration of the Engineer officers of the Government. Whatever they can do or devise will be done and devised to assist the cause of agriculture in Travancore.

You ask also that the members of the Block Boards be allowed free access to the telephone system in south Travancore. I shall be very pleased to grant this permission and allow them the use of telephone for a consideration.

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